

From: HARRBET2@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 12:58pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I think it is a shame that the settlement in the Microsoft case was not reached years ago. If the suit had to be brought at all. Microsoft is a successful company, which has led the world into a new era, improved the balance of trade, improved efficiency, and increased the ease with which ordinary people use technology. There have always been choices for people who prefer to use non-Microsoft products. Apple has made its own products-both hardware and software-for anyone who wants to get locked into that single, closely guarded system. Or someone could have tried to use a Unix system at home. But people wanted to use Windows. Microsoft has always been honest and conservative in its financial dealings. Why should we tear Microsoft apart, when it has been so beneficial?

To bring a close to this very distracting and expensive suit, Microsoft has compromised a great deal of its rights. Internal interfaces and server protocols of Windows will be divulged publicly. Exclusive marketing agreements will be allowed to lapse. The Windows desktop will be made fully re-configurable by non-Microsoft companies. Software experts in a technical committee will observe Microsoft's conduct, software and practices with an eagle-eye. This is heavy stuff. Microsoft has not gotten off lightly at all. Only by returning its focus back to accelerated innovation, as directed by its founder, Bill Gates, can Microsoft continue to survive and lead as it has done so well in the past.

The best interests of the American computer sector and the American economy as a whole will be served by the Federal Court's approval of the settlement. Please support this settlement, Mr. Attorney General.

Sincerely,
Betty Harrell
8215 S.W. 82 Place
Miami, Florida 33143

CC: fin@mobilizationoffice.com@inetgw